

Montrose Trinity Church

Summer Newsletter - June 2024

Summer Mission Season 2024 is fast approaching . . .



Images from 2023 - Ferryden top, Steeple lower

“Mission” has been re-declared one of the vital functions of the Church. Without Mission, we need to ask ourselves, what is our church for, other than a cozy club for ageing decent folk?

At the beginning of July, we will see some of our members taking Mission seriously. Apart from praying for the success of both Holiday Clubs. What else can we do to help?

Why not ask any member of the Mission teams?

FERRYDEN HOLIDAY CLUB 2023 - SAFARI KIDZ

Jamie Livingston

Here's what happened last year - as a taster.

The Ferryden Holiday Club 2023 was very successful, with spaces being over-subscribed and connections made with over 35 families in the village and surrounding area.

The theme for the week focused on the team being tasked with relocating lost animals on the Savanna Plains and assisting them to find the ever illusive "Watering Hole". This premise lent itself well to the biblical teaching aspect for the week of "lost and found", where we met and interviewed people from the bible and discussed things they had lost and how they felt when they found them. This ensemble included Mary talking of when she lost Jesus and found him in the temple, a lovely lady who had lost one of her precious gold coins, a man who had lost his son, who returned after spending all his money and Dan the shepherd, who had lost one of his sheep! Finally on Friday we were joined by Jean, who gave her testimony and as usual had everyone in the hall captivated as she told her story.

Of course, it wouldn't have been a Holiday Club without the usual antics including a dance routine, a song from the Cheeky Pandas, crafts & games and of course jokes with resident water toxicologist - Andy.

Over the course of the week, we would get closer and closer to the "Watering Hole", but by Friday morning we still hadn't reached it. This of course came as a huge disappointment, but all was not lost, by the end of the session we had arrived. The watering hole was the location for our final game of the week, involving sponges, buckets and a lot of running around. This was a fantastic way to end our week at the club and everyone left happy, smiling and perhaps, a tad wetter than when they arrived.

As well as the main morning sessions Monday-Friday, the week also included a full house for the annual Wednesday games night and concluded with an intergenerational family service on Sunday morning, where we were able to share all the fun of the week with the families of the children and our church family as well as share in a delicious sausage sizzle.

Preparations are well under way for this year's Holiday Club in Trinity Ferryden Hall - **'SPORTY KIDZ', 8-12 July.**

(See back page for details)

MISSION WEEK at the STEEPLE

Fiona McIntosh

Mission Week at The Steeple began back in 2007 and since then, the week has become not only a highlight in our church calendar but also in the town. It is a welcome opportunity to open the doors for a whole week and invite the wider community in. Over the years, our mission team has grown particularly with our young folk who have come up through the holiday club and are now at secondary school. They take on significant roles such as responsibility for aerobics (not for the faint hearted), organising games and being assistant group leaders. Although the holiday club is a fundamental part of mission week where we welcome over 100 children, there is something for everyone. A café runs in the Tom Long Gallery every morning from 10.30am – 12.30pm which offers a "bird's eye" view of the goings on in the hall. There's a pancake tea party on Thursday afternoon, a Beetle Drive and BBQ on Saturday morning and the week closes with a café style service in the halls followed by a lunch.

Chippie's Challenge was our main focus last year, with all the bible stories being told through the eyes of the main character Chippie who ran a local chip shop. During the morning sessions, the children enjoy a range of crafts, games and activities, as well as songs and stories. All this is hard work so there is a welcome snack of fruit and juice. This year we are off to the circus with Big Top Holiday Club for primary school and Little Top for Nursery (aged 3+). Bible stories being covered this year are Jonah and the Whale, One Body Many Parts, Peter Walks on Water and Pentecost. Fun and fellowship are the key words of the week with friendships being formed, and the good news being shared.

This Year's Holiday Club - **Big Top and Little Top** - will run in Trinity Steeple Halls from **Monday 1st - Friday 5th July**

(See back page for details)

The usual events, as described above, will run around the actual Holiday Club.

Registration for both clubs is via QR codes which are displayed on the back page, on posters or on the website

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Harry Smart

February 22nd 2022. Missiles hit cities across Ukraine and Russian armoured columns crossed the border. On the 28th of March, Varvara arrived in Scotland under the Homes 4 Ukraine scheme.

In the 1990s we hosted a woman fleeing the war in Bosnia. Since then the hostile environment has poisoned every institution in the UK. Every public agency made trouble and we have to credit Dave Doogan, our MP, who went beyond the call of duty helping Varvara get fair treatment.

She was in the second year of an undergraduate degree in Social Work in Kyiv. She met staff in the Social Work department in Dundee University, hoping they might give her direct entry to second year: they looked at her academic record and said 'No. You're good enough to go straight into the MSc course'.

From local folk, lots of kindness. We came out of the polling station with Varvara; a young woman recognised her from TV. She tried to speak but couldn't for emotion. She put her arm round Varvara's neck and cried.

Martin Fair, at St Andrews Church in Arbroath asked, 'What does Varvara need?'. A phone contract to stay in touch with family and friends. 'How much is a two-year contract?', said Martin. It was £600. Martin said, 'Give me your bank details'. Then 'What else do you need?' Driving lessons: 'Would £700 help?'

Varvara arrived traumatised and alone. Now she has an MSc and a Social Work job with Angus Council. She's passed her driving test, bought a car, and found a man she wants to share her life with. On 25th May we were at their wedding. Watching the transformation has been a joy. As someone once said 'it's more blessed to give than to receive'.

Left
Varvara arrives at
Waverley 28/3/2022



Right
Varvara's
wedding 25/5/2024



STANDING STRONG

Anne Tulley

A few weeks ago a few of us attended the Open Doors conference, Standing Strong, in Glasgow. Open Doors is the organisation that supports Persecuted Christians. Did you know that 1 in 7 Christians in the world are persecuted for their faith? No, I didn't either. That is a staggering number, around 365 million Christians.

Every year Open Doors puts together the World Watch list of the top 50 countries for persecution. Number 1 is North Korea where being discovered to be a Christian is effectively a death sentence.. Even being found to own a Bible could mean you are killed! This is followed by Somalia, Libya, Eritrea and Yemen. Then at number 6 is Nigeria and the speakers at the conference were from Nigeria. Christians in Nigeria, particularly in the Muslim majority North, are terrorised by Islamic militants and armed bandits. More believers are killed for their faith in Nigeria each year than anywhere else in the World combined.

The speaker S and his wife H talked about the stress of living in this situation; even children feel the tension as at school Christian children can be treated differently to their Muslim peers and persecuted by them. S's brother was killed for his faith and so S and H now have to look after his 3 children as well as their own 4.

One of the devastating things that happen in northern Nigeria is that often women and girls are kidnapped by the terrorists while the men are killed and the boys taken away to become militants. You may have heard of the Chibok girls who were kidnapped from their school 10 years ago; some have been released, but others are still missing. Those who are released often return with babies as they have been forcibly married to or raped by the terrorists. These women are often rejected by their communities and even by their families as the babies have been fathered by terrorists. The militants hope to weaken the church so that it can no longer exist.

These atrocities rarely make the news. You may ask, "What can we do?". What they always ask for is prayer for courage and strength - and that we surely can do. Thank God for the freedom we have to worship and the easy access we have to bibles.

THE SERVICE on 26th MAY 2024 from GAVIN DRUMMOND (Interim Moderator)

It seems no time at all since the union of Montrose South & Ferryden, Hillside & Dun and Old & St Andrews to form Montrose Trinity. Bringing together three congregations will take some time but my sense is that there has been much hard work, much good will and we are getting to know folk from the other congregations. We heard that many members felt they did not know what is going on in the congregation, so on Sunday 26th May, at a joint service in the Steeple we set out to update everyone on progress to date and plans for the future, remembering that Jesus told us to go out and make followers for Him. The service was well attended but, maybe, we tried to include too much information as it went on for a bit over the usual hour!

At an early stage of Montrose Trinity, the Kirk Session decided to set up Teams made up of elders with members of the congregation who have a special interest and skill in an area. One of the requests at the service was for members of the congregation who would like to join a Team to speak to the Team Leader and they will be welcomed.

A very helpful booklet was handed out to the congregation giving information about each Team, its remit and the current membership. If you have not seen it there may be copies available in each Hub so, do ask for one.

Some points from the presentations:-

The **Finance Team** noted that income is not meeting regular expenditure. That is probably inevitable in the change-over, but members are asked to review their giving – we do appreciate that the financial position is tight for many.

The congregation has 9 buildings at present, 2 of which are in the process of being sold. The **Property Team** has the demanding responsibility to maintain them with all requiring regular maintenance. There will have to be a review to consider if some need to be disposed of.

The **Mission and Youth Team** has the remit to engage with folk in the community, to share God's love with all. It works alongside the MYPlace programme led by Shona Barakat, whose resignation was announced, and she was warmly thanked for her outstanding work. Try Praying booklets for members to use then hand on to friends were given out.

The **Worship Team** is considering extending the number of House Groups and will have an information meeting for those interested. It is also looking at having Sunday services at different times, not all at 11.00am and a midweek service as well! Also should we have more joint services?

Members were given questionnaires. We want to know YOUR views on what the congregation should be planning to do – the Session wants to be guided by the views of the members. Please, if you did not have time to hand them in at the service do return them soon.

As we head into the summer break can I wish you all well for a relaxing time and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Every Blessing,

Gavin

Montrose Trinity Church

Quiet Hour

No service, just time to be still.

*Let the peace of this place calm, comfort
and refresh you.*

Stay for a moment or stay for an hour.

All are welcome. Please use the side door.

Wednesdays 3-4pm, 7.30 - 8.30pm



PERSEVERING from IAN GRAY (OLM)



I have quoted often the following words of JRR Tolkien from “Lord of the Rings”. I make no apology in quoting them again....

“The world has changed.
I see it in the water.
I feel it in the Earth.
I smell it in the air.
Much that once was is lost.

Our world has certainly changed, and many feel, as Tolkien wrote, “Much that once was is lost.” But does change necessarily mean loss? Or does it mean challenge! The challenge for us is make church work in a different way than what has aye been.

An American mountaineer described his last moments of his ascent of Everest, his body screaming out for relief, but his mind being locked like radar on that point in space where the snowy cornice of the summit peak jutted into the dark blue sky. Indomitable perseverance underlies every human achievement.

St Paul tells of a young church almost pulled apart by dissent and the cross currents of bitter theological controversy. He wrote these words to those stressed out early Christians.... “The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness”.....It’s a timeless message that speaks to every church down through the ages, and to us in 2024.

To quote English author Elizabeth Goudge.... “One of God’s greatest gifts to us as his children is to put glue in our veins...the glue that enables us to adhere undaunted to our Christian principles, to pass through the stormy seasons of life and remain faithful to our God, and patient in our relationships with others, the church and the wider world.”

God has called us to the task of “moving on”.....The mountaineer, standing so close to the summit of Everest, knew what the reward of his efforts would be.... The rewards for us, in our changing world, will be far beyond our present day comprehension.

“Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, Faith looks up” - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

MONTROSE BEFRIENDING SERVICE (MBS)

Grace Linton

April 24th 2023. A very significant day and one to be celebrated as that was the day on which Montrose Befriending Service (MBS) volunteers first met together. The preliminary work had been done. A group of five, now trustees, all concerned about the real need for a befriending service in the town, had decided to go ahead with a project to meet that need. With its registration as a charity, MBS came into being officially. April 24th saw the first practical step taken, session 1 of an 8 week training programme for volunteers.

Who needs a befriender?

It’s now universally accepted. Extended periods of social isolation can seriously harm mental and physical well-being. Loneliness, cognitive decline, anxiety, and depression are all unwelcome mental health side-effects while physical harms include heart disease, high blood pressure, weakened immunity, and reduced overall longevity. The health risks are as bad as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day and people can be affected at any time of life.

Befriending in action

Helping people to overcome these issues is where the befrienders come in. They interact with and befriend those who are isolated, encouraging them to join new clubs, take part in activities, start new interests or just to chat. There have been three intakes of volunteers and now there are 36 men and women of all ages and from all walks of life but with one motivation – to make a difference to the life of someone who is lonely and isolated. Each befriender goes through a four week training course with most sessions led by experienced leaders from a wide range of caring backgrounds. Those participating in the scheme are recommended by a Social Provider based in the Health Centre and great care is taken to match befriender and befriender, considering people’s interests, where they’re from, their age and personalities etc. The result? A major improvement in the lives of around 40 Montrose citizens. Futures which were shaping up to be limited and lonely now have opportunities well beyond anything they could reasonably have expected. There are opportunities to socialise with others at the recently formed Board Games and Crafts Groups and even indulge in a little retail therapy through the Accompanied Shopping Scheme.

TRY PRAYING

Meg Cowan

Fact: *Of people who say they are not religious, 1 in 5 pray**.

Try Praying is an exciting mission focus for Trinity Church this spring.

So, what is Try Praying? The Try Praying booklet is a 7-day prayer guide for those who are not religious and has been used in many countries by hundreds of thousands of people. It is intended to be read and then passed on to friends, colleagues and neighbours. Each day has a reflective reading and a real-life story of people who tried praying and the answers to prayer they received.

You may by now have seen banners and posters like this around town, or even in major cities on buses and billboards.

The logo for 'trypraying.org' is displayed in white text on a teal rectangular background. The word 'try' is in a bold, lowercase font, followed by 'praying' in a regular lowercase font, and '.org' in a smaller font size to the right.

On May 26th at a joint Thanksgiving service all those attending were given a copy of this booklet and were asked to 'Use it and Lose it' - in other words to read this small book daily for 7 days and use it as an encouragement to pray and then to 'Lose it' by passing it on to someone else. That person doesn't have to be someone who would consider themselves a Christian or who has prayed before, but merely someone who is open-minded enough to try praying and see what happens.

It can be difficult to know how best to share our faith with others but as the tag line says this could be a great way to 'share your faith without being weird'!

So let's prayerfully support this initiative and see what God does!

**Prayer in the UK, Tearfund 2017*

FERRYDEN COMMUNITY CHOIR

Chris Brown

It's almost two years since Ferryden Community Choir was established. It all began as a desire to be part of a choir, and as there weren't any around at the time I was given the task of setting one up. After much prayer, support and help, we finally started in September 2022.

We have a lot of fun in choir - that's the real aim of it. We've had a Christmas night out. Bet you can't guess what we chose to do for our night out? That's right, karaoke! We've also sung at various venues around town and established a Christmas and Summer concert in church. Our first outdoor Christmas Carol Service at Roamer Coffee went well, but we didn't know enough Christmas songs. So in January I cracked the whip and insisted we learn a new Christmas song every month. It's very strange singing Christmas songs between Christmas and Easter!

The Military Wives choir from Leuchars was singing at Laurencekirk Church of Scotland in April. It was a choir night so we set off in cars to listen to them. Amazing women with even more amazing stories to tell. And it was great for us to be able to relax and enjoy the music instead of being the ones having to do the entertaining. A wonderful evening.

We meet during school term time from 7:30pm to 9pm in Trinity Church@Ferryden on Wednesday evenings with tea and coffee at 7pm. Please feel free to join us anytime - you don't need to have a great voice and you won't be auditioned. Just come for the fun of it.





It has been a privilege to serve MYPlace for the past almost 3 years. The role has been a blessing to both myself and my family as we settled in Montrose and made this town our home. I am very grateful for the opportunities I have had to learn and grow and develop during these past years.

Presently MYPlace is running two toddler groups or MYPlay groups as we called them with around 20 families attending each week. For the mums and children this is a safe space for them. This is where they feel accepted and heard. Children come in shy and unable to leave Mum's side but leave confident and willing to speak to other adults. Mums are creating friendship networks to support each other in all situations of life. We have walked the families through deaths of partners, parents and children as well as mental health challenges and they all know that we are praying for them and their families.



Lego Clubs are brilliant. I am constantly hearing we don't have families in the church but at Easter we had 32 families in the church because of Lego as the children participated in different Lego challenges and builds. We don't want to lose contact with these families so a summer club will run starting the 22nd of July. Volunteers are needed for this to run until my replacement is in post. You don't need to know anything about Lego or even like it but be willing to chat to the children or parents that attend. Speak to Aileen Scott or Meg Cowan or Elizabeth Balfour if you can help with this.

One of the projects that I started was Lego Church, which is not just for children. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to build but you will want to once you see the Lego and all the different pieces that are now available. Apart from building we hear a bible story to encourage us to think about what the bible teaches.

Some of my time was spent in the different schools around Montrose. One of the programs I used was Bible Alive, a seven-week series that allows us to share the truths of the bible from beginning to end. This academic year 75 children in three different primary schools heard the whole story of the Bible. I cannot describe to you just how amazing this program is. The children are visibly upset when we finish the series and the questions they ask would challenge the best theological student. Another 75 heard the Christmas story and 50 heard the Easter story because the schools asked that we attend and share these truths with the children. Children and families are searching for the truth and are open to hearing the gospel but the church must meet them at their place. It will only happen if all members of the church become involved and welcome them and invite them in.



As I leave MYPlace to work with the Scottish Guardianship Service to advocate for unaccompanied minors and trafficked children in Angus, I hope and pray that the church members will take up the challenge and opportunities that have been created and be the light and salt to the families of the community that we have had contact with as well as develop new contacts, so that the gospel of Christ can continue to impact the world around us.

It is with sadness and gratitude that we say goodbye to Shona who has done a power of work over her time with us as you have read in her report. Please pray for her as she starts her new work, also for her husband and children. The work she has started in Montrose must continue and this will need volunteers - are you willing to help? We need to pray for the work with families and in schools to continue and grow. This is the mission field of Trinity Church and as members we all have a part to play - praying, volunteering, inviting, encouraging, informing.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... the 2020 lockdown was not the first ever lockdown in Montrose. In 1646, residents were banned from leaving the town which was effectively in quarantine for nearly one year as bubonic plague ravaged much of Scotland.

Forbes Inglis has researched and written about this time in Montrose's history. You can read the full article in the church website at - www.montrose-trinity.co.uk/blog/categories/thoughts

VIEWING TRINITY PARISH CALENDAR ON YOUR MOBILE

The Trinity calendar shows events in all three hubs. It is easily viewed via the web site but not on a mobile. However that problem can be resolved via the Teamup App. Follow the instructions below if you have a Smart phone.

1	Install the Teamup Calendar App on your mobile via your mobile's App Store
2	Open the App
3	Choose to continue without account
4	At the Dashboard, choose the + to get the URL for the Church Calendar of Events.
5	Choose the option to connect an existing calendar
6	The URL (or address) for the calendar has to be entered. Part of it has already been entered and all you have to do is to type in these red letters and numbers after .com/ kshdgzjout1dpbybm5 Then select <Continue>
7	The calendar is now on your dashboard. Select it and it will open. There are various ways to view it . Now you can view the calendar by opening the App at any time.



To register use QR link




Montrose TRINITY
 Church of Scotland

Sporty Kidz Holiday Club

Ferryden Church Hall 8-12th July
 10-12noon Admission Free (Age P2-S1)




Montrose TRINITY
 Church of Scotland

Monday 1st July – Friday 5th July

Primary School Age children
10.30am – 12.30pm

Nursery Aged Children (over 3)
10.30am – 11.30am

Trinity Steeple Halls

Admission Free

(Scottish Charity No SC 009934)



Register via the QR Code

**Could you help the
FOODBANK?
These items are top
requirements.**

- Hand in your items at CHURCH or direct to MOHUB*
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pasta (not spaghetti) | Pasta sauce |
| UHT Milk | Toilet Rolls |
| Hot dogs (tins or jars) | Coffee |
| Minced beef and onion (tinned) | Tea bags |
| Tinned meals (stew, mac cheese etc.) | Cereal |
| Washing powder | Washing up liquid |
| Shampoo (not conditioner) | |